

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

RAFAEL NAVARRO-ADAMES,

Defendant.

CRIMINAL NO. 25-164 (SL)

**PLEA AGREEMENT  
TO THE HONORABLE COURT:**

The United States of America, Defendant, Rafael Navarro-Adames, and Defendant's counsel, Julio C. Alejandro-Serrano, Esq., pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, state that they have reached a Plea Agreement, the terms, and conditions of which are as follows:

**1. Charges to which Defendant will Plead Guilty**

Defendant agrees to plead guilty to count one of the Information in this case, which charges, in sum and substance,

On or about November 1, 2022, in this District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court, Rafael Navarro-Adames, the defendant herein, who is an alien, as the term is defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(3), did knowingly and illegally attempt to enter the United States. All in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(1).

## **2. Maximum Penalties**

The maximum statutory penalty for the offense charged in Count One of the Information is a term of imprisonment of not more than six months or a fine under Title 18, or both pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §1325(a)(1); a fine not to exceed \$5,000.00 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3571(b)(6); and a supervised release term of not more than a year, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3583(b)(3).

## **3. Sentencing Guidelines Applicability**


Defendant understands that the sentence will be imposed by the Court in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551-86, and the United States Sentencing Guidelines (hereinafter "Guidelines"), which are advisory pursuant to the United States Supreme Court decision in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005). Further, Defendant acknowledges that parole has been abolished, and that the imposition of Defendant's sentence may not be suspended.

## **4. Special Monetary Assessment**

Defendant agrees to pay a special monetary assessment ("SMA") of ten dollars (\$10.00) for this count of conviction. The SMA will be deposited in the Crime Victim Fund, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013 (a)(2)(A).

## **5. Fines and Restitution**

The Court may, pursuant to Section 5E1.2 of the Guidelines order Defendant to pay a fine. The Court may also impose restitution. Defendant agrees to execute and make available, prior to sentencing, a standardized financial statement (OBD Form



500). The United States will advocate on behalf of any identified victim and comply with its obligations under the Mandatory Victim Restitution Act of 1996.

**6. Sentence to be Determined by the Court**

Defendant understands that the sentence to be imposed will be determined solely by the United States Magistrate Judge. The United States cannot make and has not made any promise or representation as to what sentence Defendant will receive. Any discussions that the parties might have had about possible sentences are not binding in any way on the Court, and do not constitute representations about what the parties will seek, or what the actual sentence will be.

**7. Recommended Sentencing Guidelines Calculations**

The Information charges a class B misdemeanor under 18 U.S.C § 3559. As such, the Sentencing Guidelines do not apply. U.S.S.G. § 1B1.9.

**8. Sentence Recommendation**

As to Count One, and after due consideration of the relevant factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the parties agree that the parties will request a sentence of time served regardless of the Criminal History Category determined by the Court.

The parties agree that any recommendation by either party for a term of imprisonment below or above the stipulated sentence recommendation will constitute a material breach of the Plea Agreement.

**9. No Stipulation as to Criminal History Category**

The parties do not stipulate as to any Criminal History Category for Defendant.



## **10. Waiver of Appeal**

Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees that, if the imprisonment sentence imposed by the Court is equal to or less than time served, Defendant waives the right to appeal any aspect of this case's judgment and sentence, including, but not limited to the term of imprisonment or probation, restitution, fines, forfeiture, and the term and conditions of supervised release.

## **11. No Further Adjustments or Departures**

The United States and Defendant agree that no further adjustments or departures to Defendant's total adjusted base offense level and no variant sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 3553—other than any explicitly provided for in this Plea Agreement—shall be sought by Defendant. The parties agree that any request by Defendant for an adjustment or departure that is not explicitly provided for in this Plea Agreement will be considered a material breach of this Plea Agreement, and the United States will be free to ask for any sentence, either guideline or statutory.

## **12. Satisfaction with Counsel**

Defendant is satisfied with counsel, Julio C. Alejandro-Serrano, Esq., and asserts that counsel has rendered effective legal assistance.

## **13. Rights Surrendered by Defendant Through Guilty Plea**

Defendant understands that by entering into this Plea Agreement, Defendant surrenders and waives certain rights as detailed in this agreement. Defendant understands that the rights of criminal defendants include the following:

- a. If Defendant had persisted in a plea of not guilty to the charges, Defendant would have had the right to a speedy jury trial with the

assistance of counsel. The trial may be conducted by a judge sitting without a jury if Defendant, the United States and the judge agree.

- b. If a jury trial is conducted, the jury would be composed of twelve lay persons selected at random. Defendant and Defendant's attorney would assist in selecting the jurors by removing prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or by removing prospective jurors without cause by exercising peremptory challenges. The jury would have to agree, unanimously, before it could return a verdict of either guilty or not guilty. The jury would be instructed that Defendant is presumed innocent, that it could not convict Defendant unless, after hearing all the evidence, it was persuaded of Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and that it was to consider each charge separately.
- c. If a trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and, after hearing all the evidence and considering each count separately, determine whether or not the evidence established Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
- d. At a trial, the United States would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against Defendant. Defendant would be able to confront those witnesses and Defendant's attorney would be able to cross-examine them. In turn, Defendant could present witnesses and other evidence on Defendant's own behalf. If the witnesses for Defendant would not appear voluntarily, Defendant could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court.
- e. At a trial, Defendant could rely on the privilege against self-incrimination to decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from Defendant's refusal to testify. If Defendant desired to do so, Defendant could testify on Defendant's own behalf.

#### **14. Stipulation of Facts**

The accompanying Stipulation of Facts signed by Defendant is hereby incorporated into this Plea Agreement. Defendant adopts the Stipulation of Facts and agrees that the facts therein are accurate in every respect. Defendant agrees and accepts that had the matter proceeded to trial, the United States would have proven those facts beyond a reasonable doubt.

### **15. Limitations of Plea Agreement**

This Plea Agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico and Defendant. It does not bind any other federal district, state, or local authorities.

### **16. Entirety of Plea Agreement**

This written agreement constitutes the complete Plea Agreement between the United States, Defendant, and Defendant's counsel. The United States has made no promises or representations except as set forth in writing in this Plea Agreement and denies the existence of any other terms and conditions not stated herein.


### **17. Amendments to Plea Agreement**

No other promises, terms or conditions will be entered into between the parties unless they are in writing and signed by all parties.


### **18. Dismissal of Remaining Counts**

At the time of sentencing, and should the Defendant comply with the terms of this Plea Agreement, the United States will move to dismiss the Indictment in Criminal Case 22-CR-518(SCC) pending against Defendant.

### **19. Voluntaryness of Plea Agreement**

Defendant acknowledges that no threats have been made against Defendant and that Defendant is pleading guilty freely and voluntarily because Defendant is guilty. 

### **20. Breach and Waiver**

Defendant agrees that defendant will have breached this Plea Agreement if, after entering into this Plea Agreement, Defendant: (a) fails to perform or to fulfill 




completely each and every one of Defendant's obligations under this Plea Agreement; (b) engages in any criminal activity prior to sentencing; or (c) attempts to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea. In the event of such a breach, the United States will be free from its obligation under this Plea Agreement and Defendant will not have the right to withdraw the guilty plea. Moreover, Defendant agrees that if Defendant is in breach of the Plea Agreement, Defendant is deemed to have waived any objection to the reinstatement of any charges under the Information, Information, or complaint which may have previously been dismissed or which may have not been previously prosecuted.


[SECTION INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

## 21. Potential Impact on Immigration Status


Defendant is an alien. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(b)(1)(O), Defendant hereby agrees and recognizes that if convicted, he may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

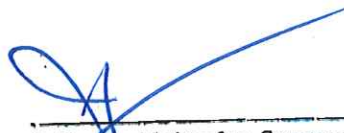
W. STEPHEN MULDROW  
United States Attorney

  
for Max J. Pérez-Bouret  
Assistant U.S. Attorney, Chief  
Transnational Organized Crime Section  
Dated: 02.20.2025

  
María L. Montañez-Concepción  
Assistant U.S. Attorney, Deputy Chief  
Transnational Organized Crime Section  
Dated: 02.20.2025

  
Jorge L. Miatos  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Dated: 02/20/2025

  
Rafael Navarro-Adames  
Defendant  
Dated: 4/2/25

  
Julio C. Alejandro-Serrano  
Counsel for Defendant  
Dated: 4/2/25



## UNDERSTANDING OF RIGHTS

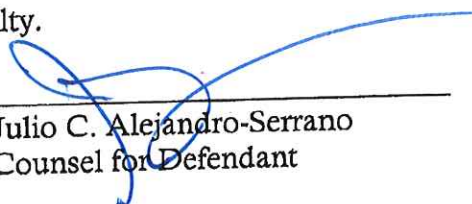
I have consulted with counsel and fully understand all of my rights as to the charges pending against me. Further, I have consulted with my attorney and fully understand my rights as to the provisions of the Guidelines that may apply in my case. I have read this Plea Agreement and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. My counsel has translated the Plea Agreement to me in the Spanish language and I have no doubts as to the contents of the agreement. I fully understand this agreement and voluntarily agree to it.

Date: 4/2/25

  
Rafael Navarro-Adames  
Defendant

I am the attorney for Defendant. I have fully explained Defendant's rights to Defendant with respect to the pending charges. Further, I have reviewed the applicable provisions of the Guidelines and I have fully explained to Defendant the provisions of those Guidelines that may apply in this case. I have carefully reviewed every part of this Plea Agreement with Defendant. I have translated the Plea Agreement and explained it in the Spanish language to the Defendant who has expressed having no doubts as to the contents of the agreement. To my knowledge, Defendant is entering into this Plea Agreement voluntarily, intelligently, and with full knowledge of all consequences of Defendant's plea of guilty.

Date: 4/2/25

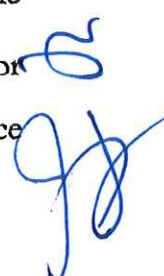
  
Julio C. Alejandro-Serrano  
Counsel for Defendant

## STIPULATION OF FACTS

In conjunction with the submission of the accompanying Plea Agreement in this case, the Defendant, Rafael Navarro-Adames, admits that guilty as charged in the Information and admits the following:

On or about November 10, 2022, at approximately 12:30 a.m., a United States Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") asset identified a target vessel described as a 'yola' type vessel with two outboard engines, several fuel containers, and six persons onboard, located approximately 25 miles south of Puerto Rico traveling towards the Guánica, Puerto Rico area. CBP Marine Interdiction Agents ("MIAs") were launched to interdict the vessel. At approximately 1:35 a.m., the vessel was interdicted by law enforcement approximately four miles off the coast of Guánica, Puerto Rico.

Upon interdiction, CBP personnel identified all persons onboard, including the defendant. Defendant was subsequently arrested for further processing and investigation. Upon being interviewed by law enforcement, the defendant, who is an alien, as the term is defined in 8 U.S.C. § 101(a)(3), admitted to boarding the interdicted vessel in the Dominican Republic and that the vessel was destined for Puerto Rico. Furthermore, he knowingly attempted to enter Puerto Rico at a place other than a designated Port of Entry.



Had this matter proceeded to trial, the United States would have presented evidence through the testimony of witnesses as well as physical evidence and documentary evidence, which would <sup>J.L.M.</sup> have proven beyond a reasonable doubt Defendant's guilt as charged in Count <sup>One</sup> Two of the Indictment. <sup>Information J.L.M.</sup> Discovery was timely made available to Defendant for review.



Jorge L. Matos  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Dated: 02/20/2025



Julio C. Alejandro-Serrano  
Counsel for Defendant  
Dated: 4/2/25



Rafael Navarro-Adames  
Defendant  
Dated: 4/2/25